

3rd September 1928] [Mr. S. Satyamurti]

to write to the Collector of the District of North Arcot and ask him for a report on the matter and if he is satisfied with the accuracy of these allegations to prosecute the officer concerned on these allegations in a court of law."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I may say, Sir, that I did not say that I was entitled to get a further assurance from the hon. Member. I merely stated that I would not take the action suggested in the circumstances."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, my recollection is that the hon. the Revenue Member said that in cases of this sort further assurance from the questioner was necessary before he would take action in the matter. When the question is put in this form, I think the Government should take whatever action it is possible for them to take and not ask for further assurance in this matter."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" As I said, I did not contend that I was entitled to ask for further assurance."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question for consideration is whether when a Member takes responsibility for the allegations contained in his question, the Government will be justified in asking for further assurance as to the truth of the allegations. Where Members refer to newspaper reports in their questions, my predecessor has held they should take the responsibility for the allegations in them by incorporating such allegations in their questions and not stop with merely referring to the newspapers. I think that the mere incorporation of the allegations in the question is sufficient so far as the questioner is concerned. It is for the Government to decide what answer they should give and they are not justified in asking for any further assurances."

V

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House that I have appointed the following four gentlemen to be a panel of chairmen for this session :—

- (1) Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan.
- (2) Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
- (3) Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
- (4) Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai."

VI

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE IN RE THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY STRIKE.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the action taken by the Madras Government in connexion with the recent strike of the workers in the South Indian Railway, especially their indifference to arbitrate between the workers and the Company."

" The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I wish to know whether there is any objection to my holding this motion to be in order."